

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-10 /102 W
-----261620Z 053302 /53

P R 261552Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9902
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01417

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, JANUARY 26

1. POINTS RAISED IN CORRESPONDENTS' DISPATCHES INCLUDE:
BRITAIN WILL SEEK URGENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION; BISHOP MUZOREWA MAY FIND HE NEEDS MR.
SMITH AS SMITH NEEDS HIM; AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
UNDERMINED THE RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENT JOHN BULLOCH:
"BRITAIN DOES NOT INTEND TO ABANDON ITS EFFORT TO FIND A
SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN CRISIS DESPITE DEEP DISAPPOINT-
MENT AT...SMITH'S OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF ITS LATEST PRO-
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POSALS. URGENT CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE HELD WITH THE NEW
AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO
CONTINUING THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL WAY AHEAD TO
SOUTHERN AFRICA."

3. GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT JAMES MACMANUS IN SALISBURY:
"THE EMIGRATION RATE, TOTALLING A NET LOSS OF 6,000

RHODESIANS LAST YEAR, CAN ONLY GET WORSE. IN THE INDUS-
TRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS CONFIDENCE IS LOW AS BUSI-
NESSMEN FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT BETWEEN FEAR OF RADICAL
NATIONALIST RULE AND A FUTURE WITHOUT AN INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED SETTLEMENT.

MR. SMITH IS THEREFORE EXPECTED TO MOVE WITH REASON-
ABLE SPEED TO MEET AT LEAST SOME REQUIREMENTS OF THE
KISSINGER PACKAGE--ABOLITION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(BUT NOT, ONE NOTES, THE MOST CONTENTIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL
REQUIREMENT TO ABOLISH THE BLATANTLY UNFAIR DIVISION OF
LAND BETWEEN THE MAJORITY AND THE MINORITY), AND THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF A POWER-SHARING, AND ULTIMATELY POWER-
TRANSFERRING, TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT.

THE MAN WITH WHOM MR. SMITH INTENDS TO CONDUCT THIS
EXERCISE, BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, HAS RESISTED ALL BLAND-
ISHMENTS TO HOLD ANY TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. BUT IN
THE END, THE BISHOP MAY FIND THAT HE NEEDS MR. SMITH AS
MUCH AS THE PRIME MINISTER NEEDS HIM."

4. FINANCIAL TIMES AFRICA CORRESPONDENT BRIDGET BLOOM:
"WHATEVER SLIM HOPES THERE MAY HAVE BEEN FOR THE SUCCESS
OF THE ACTUAL EXERCISE WERE UNDERMINED BECAUSE OF THE
WEAKNESS OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY AT A CRUCIAL TIME.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, HAD MR. FORD WON THE ELECTION, DR.
KISSINGER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS EARLIER
PRESSURE ON MR. VORSTER AND HENCE ON MR. SMITH, AND THAT
A SETTLEMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. THERE WAS AND AL-
MOST CERTAINLY WILL IN THE FUTURE BE NO WAY IN WHICH
BRITAIN ON ITS OWN COULD EXERT SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE ON
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THE TWO WHITE-RUN GOVERNMENTS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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BUT MR. FORD LOST AND SO WAS THE INITIATIVE, FOR IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT A NEW AND NOT YET INSTALLED ADMINISTRATION TO BE ABLE TO EXERT THE SAME INFLUENCE--EVEN IF IT WERE WILLING TO TAKE OVER POLICIES CONCEIVED BY ITS PREDECESSOR, AND EVEN THOUGH ITS ATTITUDE TO WHITE MINORITY RULE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY TOUGHER. NOW THAT THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE HAS BEEN TRIED AND FAILED IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME FOR FACTORS MITIGATING IN FAVOR OF A SETTLEMENT TO BE RE-ASSEMBLED--IF THEY EVER ARE. THE ONLY PREDICTION THAT CAN BE MADE WITH ANY CERTAINTY IS THAT THE WAR WILL GO ON AND WILL BE INTENSIFIED.

MR. IVOR RICHARD WAS ROUNDLY CRITICIZED HERE FOR TALKING OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF CONTAINING A WAR OF THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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SORT, AND OF POINTING OUT THE DANGERS OF EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN IT. BUT THOSE DANGERS INCREASE WITH EVERY DAY THAT PASSES. MR. SMITH PROFESSES TO BE FIGHTING TO KEEP RHODESIA FREE FROM THE RULE OF A MARXIST-ORIENTATED MINORITY. IF HE AND HIS FELLOW WHITE RHODESIANS HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE EVEN TEN YEARS AGO, THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE A SINGLE MARXIST-ORIENTATED AFRICAN NATIONALIST IN OR ANYWHERE NEAR RHODESIA. BUT THEY WERE NOT SO PREPARED AND THEY MUST BEAR THE BLAME IF THEIR PREDICTIONS COME TRUE."

ARMSTRONG

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